



DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE DISTRICT

*OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR
FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*

September 3, 2001

“When I took office, I made a commitment to improving the quality of life East of the River. I promised to build new homes and rebuild old homes, create new jobs and strengthen our local businesses. With the help of our community, we’re doing just that.”

Mayor Anthony A. Williams

From Capitol Hill to Columbia Heights, Ward 1 to Ward 8, Mayor Williams is committed to bringing prosperity to every corner of the city. His plan for communities East of the River includes new housing development, increased neighborhood safety, local business development and improved government services.

TURNING TALK TO PROGRESS

“Economic development” is a great stump speech buzz phrase—two fancy words for people talking about what *should* be happening. But in the Williams Administration – and the Office of Planning and Economic Development – economic development *is* what’s happening. It describes our city’s new housing—like the 2,400 units that were built or restored last year alone. It describes our city’s new businesses—like the Kmart, Giant Foods and Home Depot coming to Ward 5, which should generate more than \$4 million in revenue for the District. It describes our city’s new jobs—like the 5,000 positions that will come with the rebirth of the Navy Yard.

In the Williams Administration, economic development is happening all across the city.

TAKE A GANDER AT EAST OF THE RIVER

In Ward 7, homicide is down 21%; robbery is down 20%; theft is down 18%; and burglary is down 16%. We opened the Penn Branch Government Service Center, to bring our city’s most essential government agencies into your neighborhoods. We invested more than \$110 million in funding and services to revitalize the new East Capitol Dwelling – including a \$35 million HOPE VI grant – to create 555 housing units. We’re also working to revitalize the Anacostia River—providing for a beautiful public space that’s the catalyst for job creation, housing construction and retail development.

The progress we’re seeing in Ward 7 is a symbol of our economic progress across the city.

HOUSING, HOUSING AND MORE HOUSING

In July 2001, for example, The Department of Housing and Community Development committed more than \$17.4 million to local projects that will bring new 2,300 new and refurbished housing units across our city. We’ve also just released a Request for Proposals calling for the development of 7 sites for residential, retail and commercial facilities in along 14th Street in Columbia Heights. This is the latest step in Mayor’s Williams efforts to bring neighborhood-based economic development, mixed-income housing and retail opportunities to Columbia Heights.

JOBS, JOBS AND MORE JOBS

On July 11th, we broke ground at Rhode Island place. With its Kmart, Giant Foods and Home Depot, the shopping center will bring 800 construction jobs and 600 permanent jobs to Ward 5. That's not all the good news on jobs: In June, we created more than 7,000 new jobs across the city—the biggest monthly increase since June 2000,” said Gregg Irish, Director of the District's Department of Employment Services. Today, 6,500 of these positions are already filled—6,500 more District residents who are working.

NOTABLES AND QUOTABLES

The Deal on Macy's.

After more than a year of negotiations with Macy's, the city has finally decided that it's time to open up negotiations to other interested retailers. The city offered Macy's a deal that was “economic feasible and fiscally prudent,” said Deputy Mayor Eric Price, but Macy's was interested in stores in areas that were already “economically mature.” There is disappointment over the Macy's deal breakdown—but optimism about the possibilities for the Woodward & Lothrop Building. Read the *Post* coverage:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A42799-2001Aug21.html>

Development downtown? You bet.

On Tuesday, August 28th, Mayor Anthony A. Williams announced that PN Hoffman and Gilford Construction Corporation will renovate the city's historic Mather Building—in the heart of downtown. The company create 40 condominiums on the building's top nine floors, with 30% of the building's housing units affordable. The building's first floor will be transformed into an art gallery, dance studio, meeting space, individual workstations and small auditorium.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A10894-2001Aug28.html>

<http://www.washtimes.com/business/default-2001829222918.htm>

Fall is coming. That Means Football. Itchin' to Play? Gotta Go To the New Mo's.

Deputy Mayor Eric Price and a cadre of other business leaders were on-hand for the Modell's Sporting Goods Grand Opening on Friday, August 31st. Modell's opening is another sign of the strong retail economy in the District—and the interest that regional and national retailers are showing in our city. How was the event? In the words of Deputy Mayor Price, “It was packed.” Where's the store? Hechinger Mall, 1518 Benning Road.

AND DON'T FORGET...

Economic Development Week is coming...

That's right. September 10th – 14th. It's Economic Development Week in the District—the time to highlight the progress Mayor Williams – and the Williams Administration – have made in bringing economic prosperity to every corner of the city. Look for a number of public events and stories on economic development topics.

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